

Message Text

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SUBJECT: THOUGHTS ON IMPACT OF REPEAL OF MCGOVERN
AMENDMENT

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1. THE SOVIETS CAN BE COUNTED UPON TO USE REPEAL
OF THE MCGOVERN AMENDMENT TO ATTEMPT TO UNDERMINE
THE USG'S CREDIBILITY AS A SINCERE PROPONENT OF
THE HELSINKI AGREEMENT'S HUMAN RIGHTS PROVISIONS.
THE SOVIETS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY REPRESENT THE CHANGE
AS EVIDENCE THAT THE U.S. HAS NO INTENTION OF
FACILITATING "WIDER TRAVEL" BY EASING VISA REGULA-
TIONS FOR CITIZENS OF HELSINKI SIGNATORY STATES.
THIS WOULD OF COURSE FIT IN WITH THE CURRENT CAMPAIGN
THAT WASHINGTON IS MANIPULATING PROVISIONS OF THE
FINAL ACT TO SUIT ITS OWN POLITICAL PURPOSES.

2. AGAINST THE CURRENT BACKGROUND OF INTENSE SOVIET
CRITICISM OF THE U.S. FOR COMMENTING ON DEVELOPMENTS
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IN THE USSR (WHILE ALLEGEDLY OVERLOOKING "HUMAN
RIGHTS" VIOLATIONS AT HOME AND IN
FRIENDLY COUNTRIES), IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO SAY
THAT THE REPEAL OF THE MCGOVERN AMENDMENT WILL
RESULT IN ANY SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN PRESENT
SOVIET PROPAGANDA OR A WORSENING OF ITS TONE. IT
WILL, HOWEVER, PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL HOOK ON WHICH

SOVIETS WILL HANG PROPAGANDA CHARGES THAT U.S. IS BACKSLIDING ON HELSINKI. AS MADRID REVIEW APPROACHES, WE HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THIS PLOY WILL BE USED FOR ALL IT IS WORTH.

3. MOREOVER, SOPHISTICATED SOVIET CITIZENS WHO OCCASIONALLY TRAVEL ABROAD, AND WHO HAVE LONG HAD TROUBLE SQUAJZING U.S. VISA REGULATIONS (AS DEPICTED IN SOVIET MEDIA) WITH OUR STRESS ON THE FREE MOVEMENT OF PEOPLES, MAY FIND THE ACTION CURIOUS IN ITS TIMING. AT WORST, IT MAY LEAVE THEM WONDERING WHETHER THE CURRENT CAMPAIGNING IN THE SOVIET MEDIA ABOUT AN INCREASE IN COLD WAR RHETORIC IN THE U.S., AND A RETURN TO COLD WAR POSITIONS, MAY NOT HAVE SOMETHING TO IT.

4. AN AUGUST 1 PRAVDA ARTICLE BY OREKHOV ("RELAPSE INTO MCCARTHYISM") SUGGESTS THE DIRECTIONS SOVIET CRITICISM WILL TAKE SHOULD THE MCGOVERN AMENDMENT BE REPEALED. THE ARTICLE NOTES THAT THE AMENDMENT WAS ADOPTED AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION, WHICH AT THE TIME ARGUED THAT THE LIMITATIONS OF THE MACCARREN-WALTER ACT GAVE THE USSR AND SOCIALIST COUNTRIES A JUSTIFIED BASIS FOR CHARGING THE U.S. WITH FAILING TO OBSERVE THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT. THE SENATE'S ACTION ON REPEAL, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHICH WOULD "RESTORE THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S RIGHT TO FORBID FOREIGNERS' ENTRY INTO THE U.S. ON THE BASIS OF THEIR POLITICAL MEMBERSHIPS," IS AN "OBVIOUS ILLUSTRATION OF THE HYPOCRISY AND SANCTIMONY OF OFFICIAL WASHINGTON WITH ITS NOTORIOUS CAMPAIGN" FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND PERSONAL FREEDOMS.

5. OREKHOV GOES ON TO ATTACK SENATOR JACKSON, SENATOR BAKER, AND GEORGE MEANY, AND CHARGES THAT THE "SHAMELESS ANTI-SOVIETISM" WHICH THEY EVOKE IS MORE ACCEPTABLE NOW TO THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION THAN EARLIER. AFTER SAYING THAT THE REPEAL IS DIRECTLY CONTRADICTORY TO HELSINKI, THE PRAVDA COMMENTATOR ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE IS SOME DISSATISFACTION ABOUT THE SENATE'S ACTION IN THE U.S. ITSELF, AND REFERS TO A LETTER FROM SECRETARY VANCE TO THE SENATE THAT THE LEGISLATION WOULD MAKE THE U.S. VULNERABLE TO CRITICISM ON HUMAN RIGHTS.

6. ACCORDING TO OREKHOV, THE SENATE'S ACTION NONETHELESS REFLECTS INCREASING, UNFRIENDLY ATTITUDES IN THE CONGRESS TOWARDS THE SOVIET UNION. THE

ADMINISTRATION IS PARTLY TO BLAME, ACCORDING TO
OREKHOV, FOR HAVING CONTRIBUTED TO THE SITUATION BY
ITS OWN ACTIONS AND STATEMENTS WHICH ARE NOT HELPING
TO IMPROVE RELATIONS. TOON

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